

impact cleared away, ten separate and independent Turkish principalities were to be found, occupying the area of the shattered empire. The smallest of these was the one which Osman governed, but so vigorous was his personality and so conspicuous his ability that he succeeded in establishing a powerful state. In time, under his successors, the other nine tribes became subject to the Ottomans and assumed the name of the people whose glory so far outshone their own.

Osman was a strong man in days of peace. In the year 1301 he caused public prayer to be made for him as a reigning monarch, and by his act established formally his full sovereignty. For several years following, there was peace throughout his dominions. He gave himself vigorously to internal administration, evincing superior wisdom and winning the entire confidence of his subjects. He made no attempt to subdue the neighboring Turkish principalities. Harried and worried by Byzantine armies, however, he entered after a time upon a career of conquest, which was crowned with many victories east and west. The most important of these was the capture of the fortified city of Brusa, the natural key to Bithynia, and indeed to all Asia Minor. Brusa was only a short distance south of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine, or Greek, empire, and the two cities were alike remarkable for their wealth and splendor.

#### The Entry into Europe.

The Turk was now dangerously near to Europe. He cast covetous eyes across the intervening waters. In the days of Orkhan, son and successor of Osman, occurred the event so fraught with deep significance, in relation to the history of succeeding centuries.

On a certain night in the year 1354 young Prince Solyman, Orkhan's son, with a few trusted soldier-comrades, made the passage of the Hellespont on a raft and captured the town of Gallipoli. An earthquake had just shaken down the walls so that entrance was made easy. The Turks, always firm believers in the leadings of a Divine Destiny, ascribed the earthquake to a special intervention of a Turk-loving Providence. Thus an earthquake introduced the Turk to Europe, and the Turk in his turn has been causing earthquakes in Europe ever since.

Other troops were ferried across the stream. Other towns were taken. In the reign of Murad I, who succeeded Orkhan, his father, practically the entire Byzantine empire fell into the hands of the Ottomans, save the city of Constantinople.

Fate was preparing another earthquake, which pretty nearly engulfed the whole paraphernalia of Turkish supremacy. Tamerlane, the far-famed Tartar chieftain, and his savage and invincible hosts from the North swept down through Asia Minor like a devouring pestilence. They devastated parts of Russia, all of Central Asia, Persia and India. They pillaged and burned and slew. They left only ruin and blood and terror in their train. On the plain of Angora, where his empire had had its beginning, the Ottoman met this scourge of the nations and was overwhelmed. The sultan was put in a cage and placed on exhibition among his enemies. He died in captivity. Anarchy ran riot throughout Asia Minor.

Many of the Ottoman sultans were men of exceptional force and courage. No sooner had the fierce storm passed, no sooner had Tamerlane and his Mongol Tartars gone the way they came, than Mohammed I set himself to the stupendous task of reconstruction. By the genius of this monarch and his successors, the prostrate and dismembered empire rose from its ruins. In a short half century all that had been lost was regained. Peoples and provinces were recaptured. In 1453, just ninety-nine years after the first entry of the Turk into Europe, Constantinople fell before the might of his soldiery, and with it perished the last remnant of Byzantine control. This was a master stroke. It gave the Turk a strangle hold on southeastern Europe, and this grip he never released.

Here ends the history of the Middle Ages. Here begins the Renaissance. The Greek scholars, who swarmed in Constantinople and Eastern Europe, were now scattered everywhere, and everywhere they carried with them Greek and Latin learning. The rough seizure of the city on the Bosphorus by savage Turkish hands was the frantic shaking of the torch of knowledge and enlightenment, and the sparks fell all over Europe.

In all directions Ottoman arms were triumphant. Armenia, Greece, Syria, Arabia, Egypt and Hungary were conquered. Mecca and Medina, the two sacred cities of the Moslem faith, became the prized possessions of the Turk, and the standard of the Great Prophet passed from the Kaliph of Bagdad to the victorious Ottoman sultan.

In 1519, Solyman the Magnificent, greatest of all great sultans, ascended the throne. Under his leadership the armies of the empire threatened Central Europe; its navies swept the Mediterranean. This was the zenith of its glory. Five decisive defeats, the failure of the attempt to capture Vienna and the forced abandonment of the siege of Malta, checked the progress of Turkish ambitions, and saved Europe to civilization and Christianity. The achievements of Solyman, called by his people "the Lawgiver," were nevertheless most startling. Vast territories became subject to his sway, in Europe, Asia and Africa.

It is impossible to follow further at this time the checkered history of the Turk during the next three hundred years. The early days, the days of barbaric splendor and savage heroism were the great days. They can never return. Genghis Kahns and Tamerlanes and Solymans belong to an age that has gone. Under the aegis of a Christian civilization the nations of Western Europe have regarded the Turk with unceasing suspicion. His language is blood; his religion, hatred; his creed, craft and terrorism. But the Turk has kept his power, and now his later victories as a diplomat rather than as a warrior. He has played a singular part in the annals of the nineteenth century. Of this I will speak at some future time.—The Cumberland Presbyterian.

We should work as though all depended upon our own efforts; and we should pray as though all depended upon our prayers.